AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

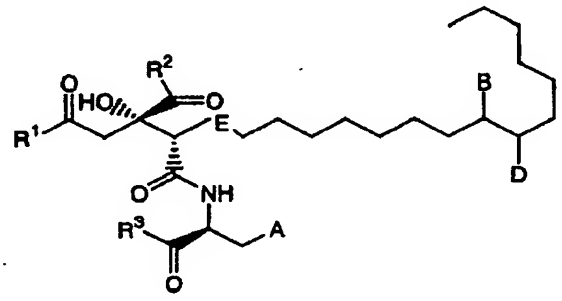
Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph starting at page 6, lines 18-25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In addition, the linear or branched alkynyl groups having 2 to 8 carbon atoms used in the present specification refer to linear or branched hydrocarbon groups having ~~1 to 8~~ 2 to 8 carbon atoms that contain at least one double bond. In addition, the linear or branched alkynyl groups having 2 to 8 carbon atoms refer to linear or branched hydrocarbon groups having ~~1 to 8~~ 2 to 8 carbon atoms that contain at least one triple bond.

Please replace paragraph starting at page 22, lines 3-9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

17. The compound of formula (I) according to the above-mentioned 15 or 16 represented by the following general formula (I'), a prodrug thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(wherein ~~X~~ A, B, D, bond E, R^1, R^2 and R^3 are the same as described in the above-mentioned 15)

Please replace paragraph starting at page 52, lines 3-16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

1 M aqueous lithium hydroxide solution (0.15 mL, 0.15 mM) was added to an ethanol solution (1 mL) of the aforementioned hydrazide form (10 mg, 0.015 mmol) followed by stirring at room temperature for 16 hours. The reaction liquid was then neutralized with 1 N aqueous hydrochloric acid solution and the solvent was concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was then purified by developing by thin layer chromatography (DIOL F254s, Merck, developing solvent: dichloromethane/methanol (10:1), Rf value: 0.5) to obtain Compound 13 (3 mg, 35%) in the form of a white powder. It should be noted that Compound 13 in this example was obtained in the form of a compound in which the configuration of the tyrosine portion ~~of . . .~~ is that of a racemer.